

FORGING A

The Garden Club of America 2019–2020 Annual Report

NEW PATH



PURPOSE

The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence, and publications, and to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

VISION

Informed volunteers working for a beautiful, healthy planet.

MISSION

Bringing clubs together to cultivate the bond among people, plants, and the environment.

VALUES

Collaboration • Engagement • Respect • Excellence • Integrity • Knowledge

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A New Normal: *From the President*

This year has been unlike any we have experienced during our 107 year history. It began with a celebration of the resounding success of the Second Century Campaign. The first Conservation Study Conference was held in Louisville to rave reviews, and 96 year-old Shirley Meneice attended the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference in Denver. The annual National Affairs & Legislation Conference provided environmental advocacy at its best.

Then in early

March, the GCA was forced to cancel or postpone 60 national events through June 30, 2021. During the final four months of the year, all planned in-person meetings and events were converted into virtual experiences.

Reading that last paragraph, it would seem that the GCA had been forced into retreat. Nothing could be further from the truth. The leadership of the GCA has struggled with the question of how to better create a sense of personal involvement in the GCA's programs among its 17,500+ club members—over 60% of them who responded to a recent survey reflected little to no knowledge of

the GCA's offerings. The pandemic caused us to adapt to the situation with creativity, commitment, and optimism, and we have reimagined what the GCA could mean to its 201 member clubs and club members. For the first time and thanks to our new virtual reality, we are directly reaching club members. In 2020–2021 the annual meeting, the Conservation Study Conference, the National Affairs & Legislation Conference, and the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference will each be open to all club members, free of charge. And we will offer two new conferences in 2020–

2021 for floral design and photography, as well as a series of on-demand speaker videos that will be available to clubs to use for programs.

What an incredible year this has been. We are reaching out in so many different ways to our audience. This will ultimately result in stronger bonds among the GCA, its member clubs, and club members.

However long the limitations on personal gatherings may last, the GCA is committed to continuing the advantages of association.

My best always,

Debbie Edwards

Debbie Edwards
President, 2019–2021



Strategic Plan

In March 2019, the GCA Executive Board adopted the **2019-2024 Strategic Plan**, and implementation began immediately. All actions relating to the Strategic Plan focus on strengthening **governance** and **leadership**, **club services** and **meetings**, **financial security**, **communication**, and **vitality**.

Here is what we have accomplished to date:

- New **messaging** was introduced to provide club members and leaders with **inspirational** and **meaningful** ways to communicate about our **vision**, **mission**, and **values**.
- A new zone **leadership** model was implemented to more efficiently **connect** clubs and club members with GCA **services**.
- Steps were taken to better **coordinate** and **market** our five committee produced publications.
- New **financial reporting** software was installed, and a **Stewardship** Committee was formed to foster the long-term **financial security** of the GCA.

Thanks to the enthusiastic reception given to these initiatives, the GCA is better positioned to successfully weather the pandemic and to deliver its **resources** and **services** to our clubs in the future. Even during the midst of significant organizational disruption, the **implementation** of the Strategic Plan continues apace, and we expect to report more progress at this time next year.

The goal was clear: to increase our endowment, secure our financial future, and enable the leadership and vision that have always characterized the GCA.

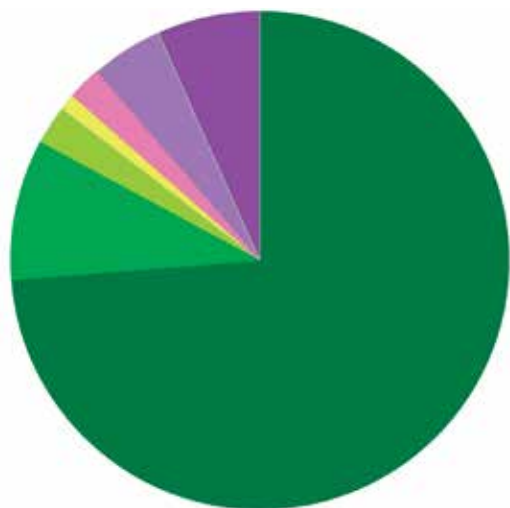
Between 2016 and 2019, thousands of GCA club members and supporters responded to this call to help the GCA sustain a history of achievement that began in 1913.

CAMPAIGN TOTAL
\$11,359,645

TOTAL
DONORS
2,147

142%
OF \$8,000,000
GOAL ACHIEVED

TOTAL BY CAMPAIGN FUND



- GCA Endowment Fund (73.8%)
- Blackburn Conservation and National Affairs Fund (9.1%)
- Cudahy Education Fund (2.5%)
- Founders Fund (1.0%)
- General Scholarship Fund (2.2%)
- Partners for Plants Fund (4.7%)
- Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference Fund (6.7%)



The Virginia Beach Garden Club decorated an arch near the Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital to thank the staff at the hospital during the Covid-19 pandemic.

COVID-19

hit us all like a bad dream. Like

every other organization in the country, we had no contingency plan on the shelf for such an overwhelming disaster. But the Board quickly addressed the issues that the pandemic raised for us. We were immediately forced to consider how an organization built on social interaction could thrive during a time when we could not physically be with one another. Clubs across the country faced the same challenges, and they have managed to remain engaged and active.

The enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment of the GCA and club leaders turned what could have been calamities into successes, emphasizing the collective determination to carry out our purpose in new and different ways. One significant activity reigned supreme—finding strength and solace in our gardens at home.

GARDENING FOR HOPE & SOLACE

GCA club members share their stories

"Gardening has always been a source of peace, contentment, and solace, helping me through the most difficult times in my life."

"The spring of 2020 will be remembered for the ages with sheltering having taken on an entirely new meaning for the generations. My spring garden has been my refuge and is a source of knowing that Mother Nature is a constant and has not forgotten us."

"We have been bombarded with news every second of the day. I rush through the chores that have to be done in the house so I can spend the rest of my time in the quiet solace of my garden. There is something so therapeutic to see what needs attention, what is blooming. I know my garden is talking to me. It brings me peace."

"I'm experiencing the pandemic solo, mostly. But my garden keeps me company. It keeps giving, and it keeps me going."

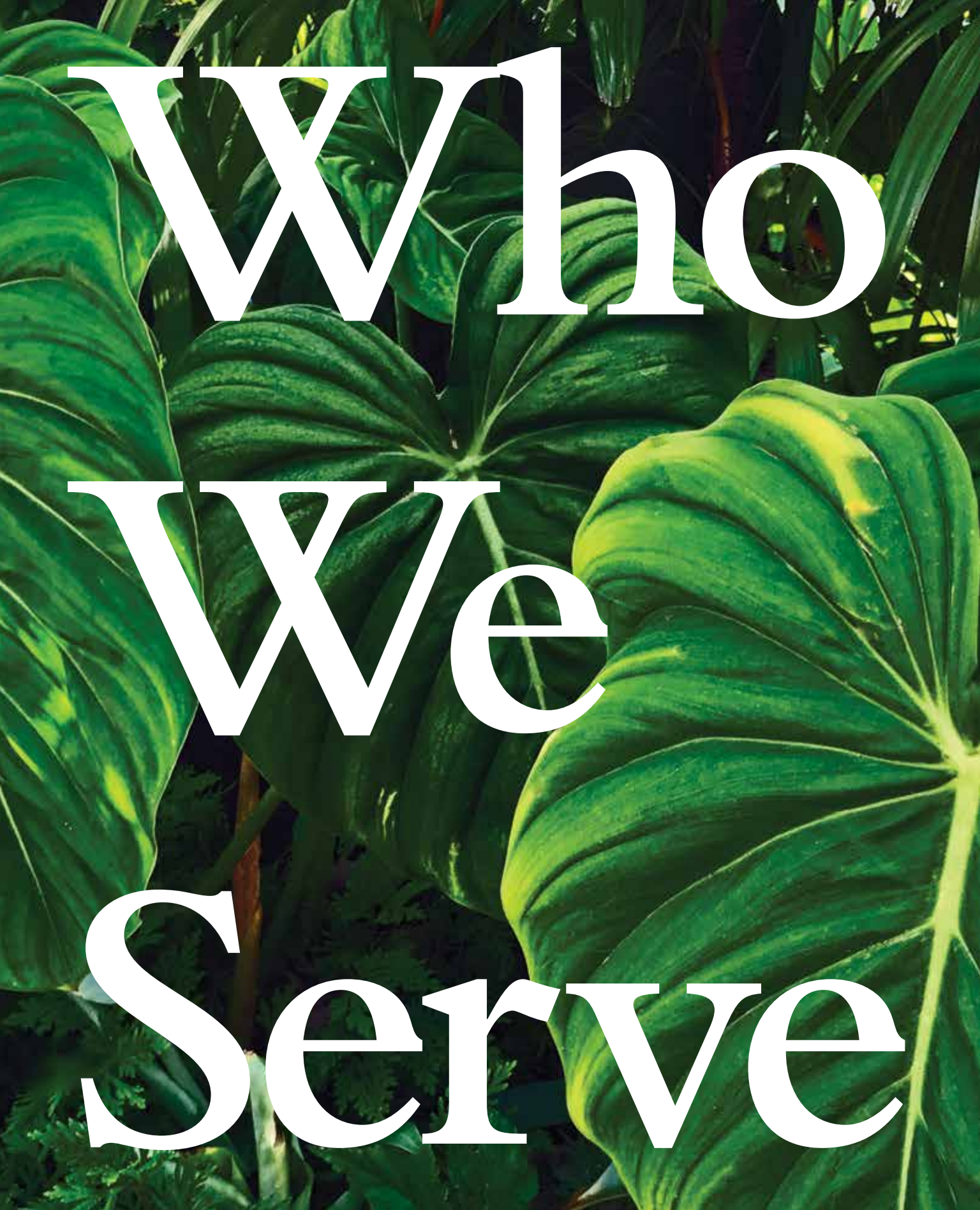
"Spring is just dawning in southeastern New England and with it comes hope."

"I am not sure I have ever felt this connection with nature with such distinct awareness. I discovered a new kind of joy in my garden."

"There is a peace outdoors and an opportunity to delight in the sun, the spring warmth, the wind, and even the rain."

"Amidst all the murky fears of what lies ahead, one of the best things I can do now is seek out the light."

"I think of gardening as my meditation. As I stretch and lift and clip, it almost seems like a form of yoga, calming the mind and breath and putting me into a wonderful state of consciousness without care or worry. I can work for hours. My body feels strong, my mood points to "happy," and I am grateful for the life energy and the beauty that is all around me."



Who

we

Serve

The GCA By The Numbers 2019-2020

Who We Are

201
MEMBER
CLUBS IN

40
STATES & THE
DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA

17,500+
CLUB
MEMBERS

85
HONORARY
MEMBERS

8
INTERNATIONAL
COURTESY
CLUBS

What We Do

28

MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

8
RESTORATION
INITIATIVE GRANTS

3,300
BOOKS IN THE
GCA LIBRARY

66
PARTNERS FOR
PLANTS PROJECTS
*conserving national, state & local
public lands throughout the US;
600+ projects since 1992*

4
ANNUAL NATIONAL
CONFERENCES

4,801
GARDENS DOCUMENTED
to date for the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens

272
FOUNDERS FUND
PROJECTS
in communities across the country

73
FREEMAN MEDAL
AWARDS
*recognizing underutilized North
American native plants*

66+
FLOWER
SHOWS

10
POSITION
PAPERS

6
PUBLICATIONS

Your National Organization

12
GEOGRAPHICAL
ZONES
with 36 zone leaders

400+
CLUB MEMBERS
SERVING
at the GCA national level

23
NATIONAL
AND SPECIAL
COMMITTEES
*providing resources for
clubs*

7
STANDING AND
SUPPORTING
COMMITTEES
*providing organizational
support*

\$4.5 MM
OPERATING
BUDGET
*revenue sources are dues,
investment income, and
contributions*

\$36.6 MM
INVESTMENT
PORTFOLIO
*includes 30+ designated
funds*

GCA CLUBS IN ACTION

The Garden Club of America is comprised of 201 member clubs and over 17,500 club members throughout the country. GCA members passionately devote their energies and expertise to a wide array of projects in their communities and across the nation. Member clubs make a difference in their local community, impact the next generation, support each other and those around them, and share a history of commitment to the environment.

Each year, club presidents* are asked how their clubs operate and are involved in the community. Here are the results and a snapshot of stories of member clubs in action.

* 192 member clubs responded to the annual survey

Clubs are involved in their communities

66% have continued community volunteer work



Green Tree Garden Club has a long-standing relationship with Schlitz Audubon and Donges Bay Gorge and organizes monthly workdays every season for club members

Four Counties Garden Club

partnered with Tredyffrin & Easttown Care, a local non-profit, to make and distribute festive wreaths in the community. Four Counties Garden Club works to improve and protect the quality of the environment through programs of education and community service. Other projects have included Physic Garden at Pennsylvania Hospital, Kearsley Retirement Community, and Stonehurst Hills Elementary Children's Reading Garden.



30% have planted trees



Working with Habitat for Humanity, the **Augusta Garden Club** planted 10 dogwood trees in front of Habitat homes and along an open park-like area.

26% have youth programs



Paducah Garden Club

members worked with Clark Elementary School's 2nd and 3rd grade garden club. PGC

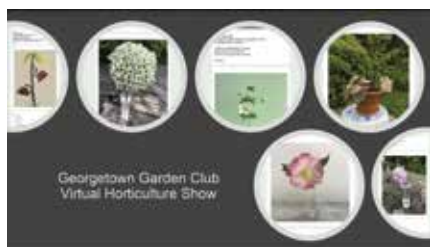
members helped students make seed bombs that were "launched" this spring. PGC's partnership with Clark Elementary includes assistance with the founding of the school's official monarch waystation.

"Each year, we take Fall River children on a tour of Westport Land Trust to teach how to conserve land and gain scientific information on plant, tree, and animal details."

—President, Little Compton Garden Club

Clubs stay in touch

50% have transitioned to virtual meetings



For Georgetown Garden Club and Albemarle Garden Club the show must go on! These clubs held virtual flower shows in which members submitted photographs with an entry card via email. Entries were then organized into a slide presentation for club members to enjoy, or in the case of Georgetown Garden Club, to be the judge!

“I asked club members to send cards to two members, the one before their name and after their name in our directory. This engaged everyone to reach out to not only their friends but other members.”

—President, Carrie T. Watson Garden Club

85% are using Zoom

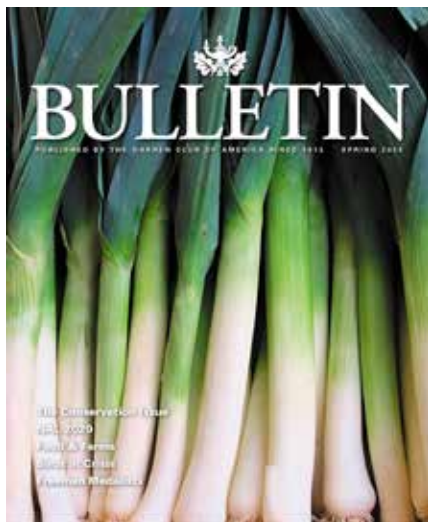


Zone I Leadership Meeting

79% produce a monthly newsletter



The GCA *Bulletin* includes news from GCA member clubs around the country.



How GCA clubs use social media



- Facebook (38%)
- No social media presence (38%)
- Instagram (34%)
- Other (14%)
- Twitter (3%)

Clubs have a history

- 97% maintain a club archive
- 27% undertake an oral history of members
- 84% have a written club history

“The foundation and strength of The Garden Club of America lies in its amazing member clubs. The Historian Committee congratulates our 201 clubs for their prodigious efforts in maintaining club archives, creating written club histories and conducting oral histories of their club members—all adding to the rich and storied legacy of the organization.”

—GCA Historian

Clubs raise funds for organizations in their community

55% have a fundraiser

GCA member clubs held fundraisers of all kinds—a Geranium Sale (**Rochester Garden Club**), virtual, live, and silent auctions (the **Garden Study Club of New Orleans**, the **Little Garden Club of Columbus**, and the **Garden Club of Englewood**), vendor boutiques (**Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club** and the **Founders Garden Club in Sarasota**), a house and garden tour (**Santa Fe Garden Club**), and social events (**Fairfield Garden Club** and **Bedford Garden Club**)—just to name a few.

Over \$2.6 million was raised through fundraisers in 2019—2020 by member clubs. With those funds and other contributions, our clubs donated \$13,239,007 to civic and community projects.



“We raised nearly \$10,000 with our Christmas Greenery Sale!”

—President,
Garden Club of
Aiken



Westhampton Garden Club sponsored a family friendly Zoom presentation at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge on native pollinators and the plants they need to survive.

55% support a scholarship or internship; over \$426,000 was distributed to scholarships and internships

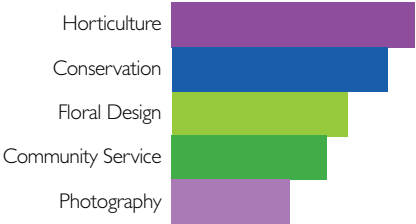
Rusticus Garden Club has funded over \$75,000 in high school and college student summer internships over the past nine years. Internships are held at local non-profits and have included programs such as renovation and expansion of native gardens, research of science-based propagation methods for organic farms, trail maintenance and ecological renovation, and increasing participation in community composting programs.



Reilly Grzywacs interned at Bedford 2020, a community outreach effort to increase composting in the community.

Clubs share a love of the natural world

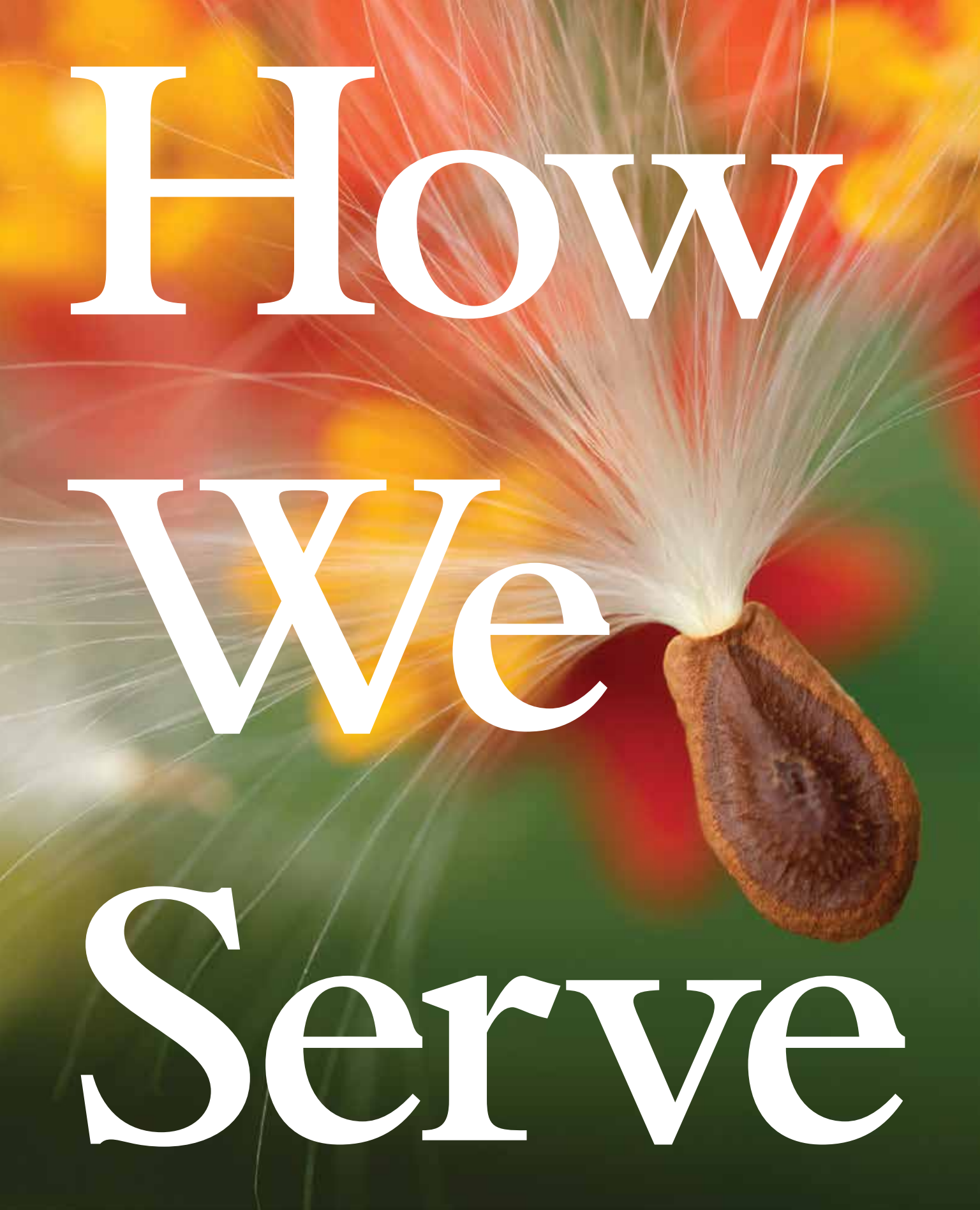
Club’s Primary Interests



Portland Garden Club planted native Oregon grape at the Nancy Russell Overlook as part of the GCA’s Restoration Initiative.

Westport Garden Club sponsored the first native plant conference in Kansas City. Over 200 people attended the two-day conference, Plant It Native, participating in workshops, hearing lectures, and learning through demonstrations and exhibits.





How
we
Serve

Creative Arts

Through the creative arts, our club members express their knowledge and love for gardening and the natural world. Floral Design, Botanical Arts, and Photography provide artistic opportunities for learning and sharing with fellow club members and the public through club sponsored flower shows.

Floral Design—using live plant material, club members express artistic and design excellence while interpreting the class themes and requirements of a flower show. Workshops are held at local clubs to further the skills of club members and to encourage participation in local and national flower shows.

Ingrid Kelly and Sara Ledbetter, **Garden Club of Houston**, were winners of Best in Show and the Fenwick Medal at Art in Fleurs, Petal to the Metal Flower Show held in Milwaukee, WI with this stunning design.



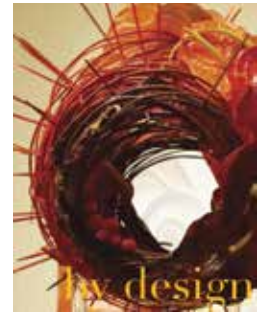
Botanical Arts—created using dried plant materials, imagination, and craftsmanship, club members create exquisite objects including jewelry, couture, needlepoint, embellishments, and pressed plants.

Mare Brennan, **The Monroe Garden Study League Group**, created this entry in the Endearing Creatures Class in the 2020 Vision, Vistas and Views, Annual Meeting Flower Show.

Photography—using the art and science of photography, club members capture nature's finest moments.

The Photography Study Group (PSG) gives club members an opportunity to learn from experts and embrace self-reflection. Workshops are planned annually in unique and spectacular locations, giving participants a chance to explore and hone their artistic skills through the lens of the camera.

Photo by Amanda Dolan, **Jupiter Island Garden Club**, Adventures in Wonderland Flower Show.



Publications—By *Design*, a quarterly publication of the Floral Design Committee is an excellent teaching and reference tool. It covers a wide variety of floral design interests, including step-by-step arranging instruction, cutting edge trends, and beautiful photography.

Focus Magazine, a quarterly publication of the Photography Committee, offers the chance to enjoy award winning images and articles about the photographic process, exhibiting and judging.

All publications are available to GCA club members at no charge.

Conservation & Environmental Advocacy

The Garden Club of America is committed to creating conservation awareness, promoting preservation of natural resources, advocating for local and national environmental legislation, and encouraging and supporting worldwide research through scholarships.



Creating Awareness: National Affairs & Legislation (NAL) Conference, Conservation Study Conference, ConWatch

NAL Conference Over 300 delegates from all twelve zones attended the three-day conference in Washington, DC. Climate change was the primary theme—how it impacts biodiversity, clean air, clean water, agriculture, and the health of public lands. Delegates took the opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives to present and gain support of the GCA's position papers.



Conservation Study Conference With the goal of expanding environmental education throughout our member clubs, the Conservation Study Conference, held in Louisville, Kentucky, was the first to welcome delegates—53 in all—from GCA clubs nationwide. The conference included speakers discussing regional environmental concerns, and field trips to reclaimed Superfund sites and other places of environmental interest. There was a trip up the Ohio River to Beargrass Creek in Voyageur canoes, paddled by attendees, where the delegates learned of the harmful effects on water quality from a range of toxic chemicals.

ConWatch This quarterly publication covers topics such as ocean acidification and coral reefs, regenerative agriculture and soil health, and the Great American Outdoors Act.





Promoting preservation of natural resources

Two years ago, Cincinnati Town & Country Garden Club took on a half-acre section of neglected and overgrown public space. Since then, garden club members and neighbors have removed invasive plant species, planted 50 trees, including oaks, hazelnuts, plum and persimmon trees, and 842 native plant plugs with another 25 trees and 1342 plugs being planted this fall. Their work has restored the woodland space and now supports birds and other wildlife.

Advocating for local and national environmental legislation

The GCA's National Affairs & Legislation and Conservation committees jointly updated 10 Position Papers this year. They summarized those issues that are of top priority to The Garden Club of America and were adopted by the Executive Board.

2019–2020 Position Papers

- Clean Air
- Clean Water
- Climate Change Action
- National Parks
- National Public Lands
- Native Plants
- Oceans
- Sustainable Agriculture, Seed Diversity, and Food Security
- Transportation
- Waste Management

Encouraging and supporting worldwide research

The GCA offers merit-based scholarships dedicated to furthering research and the protection and preservation of our natural resources.

Maggie Gibbon (left) and Gemma Roberts (right) are 2020 recipients of The Sara Shallenberger Brown Garden Club of America National Parks Conservation Scholarship. They will engage in field training and protection of resources at America's national parks.



“Conservation means being a good neighbor and global citizen by being aware of the effects of our actions on a beautiful healthy planet. The GCA makes us aware through education and gives us tools to learn advocacy in our communities.”

—GCA Conservation Chairman

Gardening & Horticulture

Through work in horticulture, the GCA inspires, informs, and influences gardening practices, protects and promotes native plants, and preserves the visual record and collective narrative of gardens.

“The quarantine has underscored the importance of our gardens. More than ever they are our havens, our escapes. We felt lucky to have been at home to witness spring unfold in the garden, day by day, watching the plants leaf out and bloom, feeling an unprecedented connection to the earth.”

—GCA Horticulture Chairman

Inspires, informs, and influences gardening practices



The annual **Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference** was held in September 2019 at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado. The three-day event was started by Shirley Meneice in 2002 at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. This year, it was attended by 242 delegates from 155 clubs, of which 166 were first time attendees. The conference schedule included workshops and lectures, tours of the Denver Botanic Gardens and the gardens at Chatfield Farms, and a presentation by Dr. Cary Fowler; recipient of the GCA's 2019 Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal.



Ray Rogers, **Town and Country GC**, won the Louise Agee Wrinkle Horticulture Propagation Award at Art en Fleurs 2019, *Petal to the Metal* flower show for cross-pollination of aloe plants.



The Real Dirt (TRD) is an online, quarterly newsletter produced by the Horticulture Committee for GCA club members. It features in-depth articles and handy tips for gardeners of all levels.

Protects and promotes native plants

For twenty-five years, the GCA has awarded **The Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal: GCA Plant of the Year** to acknowledge the cultivation and use of underutilized North American native plants. The Freeman Medal Selection Committee is comprised of highly respected horticulturists from across the United States.



The 2020 medal was awarded to *Geum triflorum*, commonly known as Prairie Smoke. Prairie Smoke is a lovely native herbaceous perennial with reddish pink to purple globular flowers that bloom in the spring and early summer; followed by an amazing feathery seed head resembling a plume.

Honorable Mention was awarded to *Asarum canadense*, wild ginger; and *Penstemon strictus*, Rocky Mountain penstemon. Special Recognition was awarded to *Zamia integrifolia*, coontie.

Preserves the visual record and collective narrative of gardens



Parks: Where Nature Meets Community—Celebrating the Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted

April 26, 2022 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted. Coordinated by the National Association of Olmsted Parks, the GCA has joined with eight other planning partners to celebrate his vision and legacy. Over a year of celebratory events, educational initiatives, and hands-on civic engagement projects including the GCA initiative—Parks: Where Nature Meets Community—will highlight the importance of Olmsted's planning principles that are as relevant for parks today as when Olmsted first articulated them. This initiative will actively engage GCA members in the continued national conversation on the importance of stewardship for our public spaces.



SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2019–2020, the GCA awarded \$306,000 in scholarships for the 2020–2021 year recognizing 64 scholars at the undergraduate and graduate level. Enthusiastic, motivated and accomplished, these young scholars seek to improve and heal our world; they represent the future in the fields of horticulture, conservation, and more. Our support for these leaders of tomorrow is the result of GCA clubs and club members believing in the benefits of education and scientific research.

The scholarships cover study in the fields of botany, coastal wetlands, conservation, ecological restoration, desert studies, national parks conservation, garden history and design, landscape architecture, horticulture, native bird habitat, pollinator research, and environmental and urban forestry. Since 1928 when the first GCA scholarship, the Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture was established, the GCA has funded more than 1,300 scholars.

In addition, \$9,000 has been awarded to nine Hull Award recipients in 2020–2021, recognizing local champions who teach children a love and concern for the natural environment.



CIVIC

Restoring our communities

The GCA established the **Restoration Initiative** to assist member clubs to respond to urgent needs caused by catastrophic storms, hurricanes, flooding, fires and mudslides. Now in its fifth year, \$80,000 has been distributed to 8 clubs involved in public landscape restoration and conservation projects.

▲ The **Garden Club of Dayton** was instrumental in founding Wegerzyn Gardens in the 1960s and continues to partner with the Gardens on a variety of projects. The Garden Club of Dayton was awarded a **Restoration Initiative** grant to replace 300 native trees that were devastated at Wegerzyn Gardens Metropark when tornadoes ripped through the northside of Dayton, Ohio over Memorial Day weekend in 2019. The 88-acre park features formal gardens, a children's garden, and woodland walks. Wegerzyn Gardens actively promotes landscaping with native plants in balance with traditional garden selections.



▲ **Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club** is restoring and maintaining coastal dune scrub in the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA. Working with a biologist, their mission has been to create a self-sustaining ecosystem and enhance the diversity of native plants and special status species including the California Legless Lizard, a Species of Special Concern, and an endangered lupine. Through planting and energetic weed management, there are now 17 different native species and a multi-layered cover of native vegetation. Members saw a Legless Lizard in the summer of 2020. Their work is a success!

Action in our communities

The **Partners for Plants (P4P)** program facilitates hands-on projects between GCA member clubs and land managers on federal, state, local, and other significant public lands. There were 59 projects approved in 2019–2020 receiving a total of \$65,000. Projects may include the monitoring and protection of rare, endangered and medicinal plants, the propagation and replanting of native plants, and the removal of invasive plants.

“P4P is a win-win for the club members, their community and, most importantly, our environment. In my mind, P4P embodies the very essence of what the GCA is all about!”

—GCA Horticulture Vice Chairman for Partners for Plants.

▲ The **Garden Club of New Haven** is establishing a pollinator meadow in Edgerton Park by using solarization to eradicate invasive plants, especially mugwort, without the use of chemicals. The new Edgerton Meadow will provide a haven for birds and other pollinators.



Improving our communities

The **Founders Fund** was established in 1934 in honor of The Garden Club of America’s first president, Elizabeth Price Martin. This prestigious grant, a total of \$50,000 awarded to three member clubs each year, can make a significant impact on the success of a community project.



▲ 2020 Winner:
**Permaculture Sanctuary:
Promoting Trauma
Resilience through
Regenerative Gardening
at Crossnore School
and Children’s Home
in Winston-Salem, NC,**
proposed by Twin City Garden Club

Twin City Garden Club partnered with Crossnore School & Children’s Home, a child welfare organization supporting children and families in crisis, to enhance a garden sanctuary on a 212-acre urban campus in Winston-Salem, NC. The project brings together the children in residence and the Winston-Salem community restoring souls through soil.

2020 Runner-up: Cheermobile:
What Cheer Flower Farm
on the Rhode, proposed
by **Perennial Planters
Garden Club**

2020 Runner-up: Growing It
Green in Paterson, NJ: Public
School Rain Garden Project,
proposed by **Garden Club
of Madison**

The Garden Club of America
annually supports the
extraordinary efforts of member
clubs to restore, improve,
and protect the quality of the
environment in their communities
through educational programs and
action in the fields of conservation
and civic improvement.

IMPROVEMENT



The Garden Club of America annually recognizes extraordinary efforts to protect and beautify the planet by awarding its highest honors to individuals or institutions. The GCA is proud to honor the 2020 national medalists whose vision, accomplishments, and efforts further the GCA purpose.

The Archives of American Gardens—The Distinguished Service Medal

Charles Birnbaum—

The Historic Preservation Medal

Arabella Dane—The Achievement Medal

Desert Botanical Garden—

The Eloise Payne Luquer Medal

Jason Gaston Fairey—The Florens DeBevoise Medal

Michael Forsberg—The J. Sherwood Chalmers Medal

Gregory Long—The Medal of Honor

Richard Louv—The Margaret Douglas Medal

J. Dean Norton—The Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal

Kathleen Powell—The Bonnylin Woods Martin Medal

Southern Appalachian

Highlands Conservancy—

The Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal

MEDALISTS

HONORARY MEMBERS

Each year, the GCA recognizes men and women with an established reputation in horticulture or conservation, or with knowledge and interest in the purposes of The Garden Club of America, with honorary membership. The GCA is pleased to include these outstanding leaders as 2020 honorary members.

Allen Bush—internationally recognized horticulturist who introduced and popularized perennial plants in the United States.

Michele S. Byers—passionately dedicated to preserving New Jersey's lands and natural resources.

Christopher Norwood—a leader in floral design, currently serving as vice president of floral operations at Tipton Hurst.



A close-up photograph of a dense field of pink Muhlenbergia grass, with thin, feathery panicles of small pink flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of pink, red, and green, creating a dreamy, ethereal atmosphere. The text is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

Why

We

Give



Stewardship Makes It Possible

Look back at what we have done.

Look forward to our continued success.

We should all be so proud!

Photos on this page, clockwise from left:

Rumson Climate Change Experiment, a **Partner for Plants Project—Rumson Garden Club**

Andy Fusco, recipient of the Garden Club of America **Hope Goddard Iselin Fellowship in Public Horticulture**

The Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference offers educational opportunities to all GCA club members

2018 **Founders Fund** Runner Up, the **Lenox Garden Club**, supported Roots Rising by funding a non-profit food truck and mobile classroom. Photo by Barbara Schmick

“Thank you for your support in the past. It made significant opportunities a reality for the GCA, its clubs, and communities across the country.”

—GCA Stewardship Chairman

Stewardship: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

THE SECOND CENTURY CAMPAIGN was a tremendous success. The funds have been invested in the GCA's endowment which generates income for us each year. However, we are limited in the percentage of the endowment available to us each year.

The Annual Fund, on the other hand, yields monies that are immediately available to support grants, scholarships, and educational programs.

Club dues, the draw from the endowment, and the Annual Fund are our only sources of income, and each is essential for our success.

Won't you consider making a gift to the Annual Fund during this year's campaign?

Your support will make a difference and will allow the GCA to realize its vision:

Informed volunteers working for a beautiful, healthy planet.

In so many ways, the GCA is engaged in urgent efforts across the country to promote gardening and to restore and protect the environment. By contributing to The Garden Club of America, you can ensure that the GCA enjoys a second century of distinguished leadership in the gardening and conservation communities.



Photos on this page:

The **Late Bloomers Garden Club** was awarded a **Restoration Initiative Grant** to help restore Cumber Garden, after it was devastated by Hurricane Irma in 2017. Photo on the left: before; photo on the right: after



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	Mary Harman <i>Debbie and John Edwards</i>	Ellie Kelly <i>St. George's Garden Club</i>		Lisa Mears <i>River Oaks Garden Club</i>
		Beth Kibler <i>Elizabeth Lilley Debra C. Oliver</i>		Debby Melnyk <i>Judith B. Hardwick</i>



Shirley Meneice <i>Catherine Allan Annie and Louie Bigliani Lynn Carmichael Isabella de Sibert Barbara W. Gould Linda Grieve Betty and Mark Irvine Diane K. Reid</i>	Sandy Murphy <i>Debbie and John Edwards Debbie Murray Anne French Dale Naylor Cindy and John Hilson Carolyn O'Malley Kim Cory Camila Olguin-Bustos Debbie and John Edwards Debbie Oliver Robin S. Armstrong Eileen W. Barrett Mary Jo Beck Cincinnati Town & Country Garden Club Renie Dohrmann Debbie and John Edwards Gardenettes of Cincinnati Vallie C. Geier Cindy and John Hilson Mrs. Emmy Hobson Delle C. Jones Paula H. Ott Bruce and Mimi Petrie Rita and John Picton Ginger Warner The Willow Hill Foundation Mary Paine Linda Millard SaSa Panarese Molly Jones Milton Garden Club Julie Peet Debbie and John Edwards</i>	Gertrude Perkins <i>Garden Club of Lexington Suzanne Perry Debbie and John Edwards Anne "Dede" Neal Petri Margaret Appleton Allison Kay Diane Bowles Mrs. W.E. Chilton, III Molly Jones Lynne and Will Nelson Elizabeth Shriver Sandra D. Thomas Ellen C. Walton Anna D. Warren Warrenton Garden Club Mrs. Anthony F. Piazza (Liz) Rye Garden Club Mary Pietan Marianne Salas DeLane Porter Missy Jensen The Portland Garden Club Corinne H. Gentner Kathy Powell The American School of Protocol Cherokee Garden Club BJ Crabtree Paula Hennessy Mrs. Richardson Pratt, Jr. M. Liz Piazza Mrs. Clara Taplin Rankin Mrs. Alfred M. Rankin, Jr.</i>	Joy P. Rasin <i>Sally B. Jouris Mrs. Benjamin W. (Susie) Rawles, III Austin Hancock Susan Robertson Margaret Page Fitchett Kathleen Rogers Meredith Holbrook Nancy Ross Meredith Holbrook Fleur Rueckert Debbie and John Edwards Anne French Wendy Mahoney Russell Kathy Phillips Hilary and Ron Salatch Anne "Dede" Neal Petri Hilary Salatch Mary O. DeVoe Marilyn Wells Sprague Santa Fe Garden Club's 80th Anniversary Santa Fe Garden Club Mossy Sartor Sue and Walter Sartor Olive Sartor Sue and Walter Sartor Ulrike Schlafly Mimi Carnal Debi Schmid Elizabeth Lilley Nancy Schotters Shirley Meneice* Mary Schubert Garden Club of Buzzards Bay Judi and Robert Sterns Barbara Seipp Missy Jensen</i>	Wendy Serrell <i>Sally Bayer Anne "Dede" Neal Petri Annette Serrurier Lindsay W. Dodge Ellen Shafer Ulrike and Tom Schlafly Timmy Shapiro Judi and Robert Sterns Chrissy Sheehan Debbie and John Edwards Carol Short Catherine A. Short- Weaver Joanne W. Sinelaire Catherine Brooks Elizabeth Skeadas Cindy and John Hilson Coke Smart Dorothy Hudson Betty Snellings Anonymous Missy Jensen Lisa Snowden Mary Call Proctor Ford Julie Spear Garden Club of Dublin Amanda Stagnaro Debbie and John Edwards Carolyn Ruth Stancill Tara Lewis Carole Sandner Nancy Williams Andrea Stewart Cheryl Adler Terry Stockman Ginny Benzak Gina Brandt Barbara Brodbeck Diane Brown</i>
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Elaine Buss	Mrs. J. Sellers Thomas, Jr. (Nancy)	Mrs. W. Temple Webber, Jr.	Constance Kinney Bassett	Suzanne Brown <i>Winnetka Garden Club</i>
Lynn Callagy	Deborah Wandel Francis	Mr. and Mrs. David Falconer Webber	Julie Bassett Aronson	Ann Hamilton Bucknall
Christy Duggan	Kingslea von Helms	Cheryl Welch	Nancy Bassett	Stafford, Bridget and William Bucknall
Chris Duncan	Sandy Thomas	Shirley D. McCrary	The Bassett Foundation	Patricia Bush
Pat Fernandez	Debbie and John Edwards	Charlotte McNeel	Lee Phillip Bell	Mrs. Camilla 'Kimmy' Brauer
Gail Ferrell	Cindy and John Hilson	Cabell West	Lake Geneva Garden Club	Wendy Calhoun
Flo Fowkes	Tempe Thompson	Preston Lee	Nancy Berger	Patricia M. Kolff
Anne French	Corinne Adrian	Bethine S. Whitney	Mary Pat Olier	Shirley Bodine
Janice Gardner	Lucia W. Crenshaw	Anna D. Warren	Gay Crutchfield	Cameron
Cindy and John Hilson	Michelle Dunavant	Cameron and Fran B. Wolfe	Birdsong	Robin D. Cameron
Beverly Kazickas	Mary Call Proctor Ford	Mr. and Mrs. John Roy Sanders	Jane Douglas Birdsong Reynolds	Nancy J. Cameros
Pamela Kelly	Mr. and Mrs. John Arthur Lewis	Nancy Ylvisaker	Gina Bissell	The Cameros Family
Liné Lewis	Jeannie Sherman Tabor	Debbie and John Edwards	Elizabeth Brumbaugh	Mrs. Julian Carr
Diane Majeski	Susanne Tobey	Cindy and John Hilson	Marilyn Donahue	Mrs. Thomas D. Rutherford, Jr.
Michele Manning	Anne French		Debbie Edwards	Jean Caton
Karen Marache	Elissa Todd		Joan C. Eliot	The Gertrude Windsor Garden Club
Julie Mather	Lida Black Bross	In Memory of:	Anne Ferrell	Patrick Chanin
Cindy Mullin	Bernadette Tramm	Frances Newman Alden	Linda Fraser	Marta Miller Dunetz
Julie Peet	Debbie and John Edwards	Frances H. Pistell	Mrs. Joseph C. Frierson, Jr.	Paul D. Chapman
Lane Reardon	Kate Trammell	Julia (Ricky) Allen	Mary Harman	Mrs. Paul D. Chapman
Mary Rooney	Mary Call Proctor Ford	Peggy Ittner	Cindy Hilson	Lynda Chase
Diana Samponaro	Susan Van Tassel	Marilyn Bruder Alsdorf	Julie Johnson	Des Moines Founders Garden Club
Sue Seitz	The Summit Garden Club	Alice Amsterdam,	Mrs. Robert C.H. Matheus, Jr.	Anna 'Lin'
Libby Smith	Elizabeth Waddill	D.M.D.	Debra C. Oliver	Christenberry
Shelby Werner	Dorothy A. Canter	Peggy and Jeff Shaver	Suzanne Perry	Members of the Zone IX Judging Program
Debbie Stockstill	Helen Wagner	Mary Babcock	Fleur Rueckert	Ginny Clarkson
Carol Rhymes	Madeline Mayhood	Sis Mudge	Sandra D. Thomas	North Country Garden Club of Long Island
Carol Stoddard	Meredeth W. Wallace	Annie Equen Ballard	Gwendolyn Bredimus	Elizabeth Nash Cochran
Barbara C. Hamachek	Dorothy D. Kraemer	Annie Offen	Leslie and Tom Purple	Dorcas Cochran
Mary Jo Strawbridge	Jan Webber	Lucie Bard	Betsey Smith Brown	Samuel Erven Colburn
Kathy Phillips	Arete Warren	North Country Garden Club of Long Island	Mary Florence Brown	The Gertrude Windsor Garden Club
Andrea Swenson	Kim Cory	Nona M. Bard	Enid Darlington Brown	Mr. Bert Condie, III
Lindsey Meyersieck	Janna Webber	Katharine Bard Dickson	Alice Darlington Cutler	Ulrike and Tom Schlafly
Carolyn Taylor	River Oaks Garden Club	Lelia Barrett	Pat Brown	
Missy Jensen		Sand Hills Garden Club	The Gertrude Windsor Garden Club	
Ruthie Taylor			Patricia Saer Brown	
Mary Call Proctor Ford			Ulrike and Tom Schlafly	
Marie B. Thomas				
Linda and Howard Holden				



Alice Cospers <i>Jane and Bill Cospers</i>	Dorcas William Ferris <i>Dorcas Cochran</i>	Helen Herlitz <i>The Haven Group- Alan, Steve, Denis & Anna</i>	Mrs. William (Sandra) Kouwenhoven <i>Amateur Gardeners Club</i>	Barbara and John McGraw
Dolores Crawford <i>Anne Crawford De Zonia and Dudley D. De Zonia, Jr.</i>	Susan Ford <i>Short Hills Garden Club</i>	Robert R. Hermann, Sr. <i>Ulrike and Tom Schlafly</i>	Kristi Krey <i>Ulrike and Tom Schlafly</i>	Lynne and George Mitchell
Elizabeth B. Crawford <i>Catherine C. Pike</i>	Deborah Elaine Fortune <i>Wendy M. Fortune</i>	Catharine Gray O'Neill Heyes <i>Richard Weir, III</i>	Leslie Kuenne <i>Katharine P. Heins</i>	June Moore <i>Pat and Jim Murphy</i>
Gail Critchlow <i>Penny Daggett Hoffman</i>	Suzanne S. Foster <i>Michele K. Linen</i>	Louise F. Hickox <i>Laurie and George Vieth, Jr.</i>	Sandra Kulesa <i>Barbara Liati</i>	Virginia L. Paige <i>Lee Petty</i>
Dr. Julie Crocker <i>Leslie Pierpont</i>	Christine D. Freitag <i>Paula Stuart</i>	Ashley Hamilton Higginbotham <i>Maré Sims Brennan</i>	Martha Newton Law <i>Anonymous</i>	St. Andrew's Episcopal School
Dorothy H. Crutcher <i>Dottie Cordray</i>	Linda Anderson <i>Fredna Gabriel</i>	Members of the Zone IX Judging Program	Ann Lawrence <i>The Gertrude Windsor Garden Club</i>	Elena D. Vandervoort <i>John and Kathryn White</i>
Dorcas Oakley Ferris Cummings <i>Dorcas Cochran</i>	Dolly Gahagan <i>North Country Garden Club of Long Island</i>	Stephen B. Higgins <i>Ulrike and Tom Schlafly</i>	Erica Leisenring <i>Ulrike and Tom Schlafly</i>	Caroline Macomber <i>Helen R. DuBois</i>
Nancy Curtin <i>Beacon Hill Garden Club</i>	Emily Brooke Garratt <i>Elizabeth Boren Millhon</i>	Sara Hill <i>Des Moines Founders Garden Club</i>	Nancy Kitchell Lickle (Missy) <i>Joanne Bahr Cushman</i>	John D. Macomber Mary Jane Madigan <i>Kathleen Madigan Muehlman</i>
Lucy Day <i>Jane Ghazarossian</i>	Polk Prud'homme <i>Lisa Gerard</i>	Anna Jane Hoffman <i>South Side Garden Club of Long Island</i>	Janet Rozier "Sue" MacDonald <i>Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Ansary</i>	Mrs. Phyllis Mallory <i>Mrs. William H. Morton, Jr.</i>
Susan Detjens <i>Katie Downes</i>	Claire Key <i>Sara Jane Gordon</i>	Mrs. Sally Hoffinan <i>Trish Gianakopoulos</i>	Martha Coates <i>Hannah C. Cox</i>	Joyce Marting <i>Akron Garden Club</i>
M. Liz Piazza Catherine Campbell Detwiller <i>Deborah Detwiller Smith</i>	Katie Porter <i>Mrs. Nicholas Gotten</i>	Bitsy Hood <i>Sarah Hood Salomon</i>	Polly Crawford <i>Carole Davison</i>	Mary Young Mason <i>Jane R. Mercer</i>
Elmer Ellis <i>The Gertrude Windsor Garden Club</i>	Meredith Gotten Pritchatt <i>Ann S. Grange</i>	Jane Hovas <i>Members of the Zone IX Judging Program</i>	Marion P. DeGroff <i>Kathy and Jody Dreyfuss</i>	Nancy Mayo-Smith <i>Beacon Hill Garden Club</i>
Liz Ellwood <i>Emmy Seymour</i>	Marjorie Stebbins Hale <i>Susan Hale Kemenyffy</i>	Thomas McK. Jones <i>Ulrike and Tom Schlafly</i>	Carol Emerson McDonald <i>The Monroe Garden Study League</i>	Sue and Walter Sartor Rev. William McMillan <i>Maryjo Garre</i>
Dorothea Etzel <i>Patricia E. Parker</i>	Jean Ann Brown Hartmayer <i>Elizabeth R. Hartmayer</i>	Mrs. Sue Kavetas <i>New Canaan Garden Club</i>	Thomas L. Howard <i>Betty J. Lawson</i>	John C. McPheeters <i>Ulrike and Tom Schlafly</i>
Gertrude P. Evans <i>Trudy E. Cushing</i>	John Harwood <i>Anne "Dede" Neal</i>	Christine Platt "Tina" Kemper <i>Rossie Carter</i>	Janet M. Lindgren <i>Alaster MacDonald</i>	Lucy Payne Minor <i>Helen S. T. Reed</i>
Kitty Ferguson <i>Cameron Q. Furber</i>	Petri <i>Babs Herbst</i>	Hutcheson <i>Margaret G. Kirkland</i>	Shirley S. McCombe <i>Judy McCoy</i>	
Peggy Mayfield <i>Ellen Hochberger</i>		Joan K. Cathcart		



Mrs. William S. (Sissie) Morris, III <i>Sand Hills Garden Club</i>	Jean Preston <i>Akron Garden Club</i>	Ralph Seabright <i>Deanna Cecile Eng</i>	Alice Kain Stout <i>Janet Patten Moon</i>	Edna Woodard Van Riper <i>Turner Woodard</i>
Dr. John Coulter Morrison <i>Anne "Dede" Neal Petri</i>	Virginia E. Queitzsch <i>Chip and Mary S. Queitzsch</i>	Dr. William Seale <i>Bliss Caulkins Clark Linda F. Holden Penny and Ted Horne Mrs. Deen Day Sanders</i>	David M. Strasser <i>Denise Strasser</i>	Linda Walsh <i>Winnetka Garden Club</i>
Marie McIntyre Murphy <i>Margaret and David Gardner</i>	Dorothy D. Riley <i>Robin Riley Martin</i>	Margaret 'Dee' Decker Seip <i>Garden Guild of Winnetka</i>	Norma Henry Sutherland <i>Margaret Weatherly Hall</i>	Roz Walter <i>North Country Garden Club of Long Island</i>
Edith Nelson <i>Jane and Bill Cosper</i>	Barbara S. Rion <i>Kathy Keller</i>	Chip Serrell <i>Anne "Dede" Neal Petri</i>	Jean W. Sutphin <i>Christina Sutphin Kohnen Jennifer McNair</i>	Sandra Crossett Ward <i>The Providence Garden Club of Pennsylvania</i>
Jane O'Neil <i>Pamela Miles</i>	Janey Rouse <i>Ulrike and Tom Schlafly</i>	Lynn Spielman <i>Cailean Sherman</i>	Rebecca Harris Terry <i>Kathy L. Arvay N. Bassett</i>	Julie Wellington <i>North Country Garden Club of Long Island</i>
Mary Ann Perry <i>The Providence Garden Club of Pennsylvania</i>	Deborah Snowden Rowe <i>Sally Rowe Heckscher</i>	Doris Stark <i>Melou C. Piegari</i>	N. Bassett B.J. Thompson <i>Rumson Garden Club</i>	Connie White <i>Bliss Caulkins Clark</i>
Alma S. Petersen <i>Janis W. Notz</i>	Therese Roane Ruddy <i>Debbie R. Schwartz</i>	Esther Stauffer <i>Janice Schulhof</i>	Elizabeth FullerValk <i>Lisa Valk Long</i>	Emma Wells Stott Williams <i>Dorcas Cochran</i>
Patricia 'Patter' Peterson <i>Susan R. Yeager</i>	Mrs. John Sanford, Jr. <i>Elizabeth Lewis McLean</i>	Doris Elizabeth Stone <i>Katherine B. Kessler</i>	Mrs. Leicester Van Leer <i>Elizabeth Lewis McLean</i>	Eulalie Bartlett Zimmer <i>The Wells Family</i>
Cherie Sutton Pettit <i>Anian Pettit Timney</i>	Sudie Schenck <i>Beacon Hill Garden Club</i>			
	Carolyn Schoonmaker <i>Torrey Matheson Cooke Mrs. Fred J. Keen</i>			

2019 Financials

*Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019**

GCA Revenues

- Contributions (41%)
- Other (5%)
- Registration fees (24%)
- Membership dues (12%)
- Net investment income (18%)



GCA Expenses

- Educational programs (64%)
- Civic Projects (3%)
- Scholarships (8%)
- Medals & awards (2%)
- Management & general (20%)
- Fundraising (3%)



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support & Revenue

Contributions	\$ 3,755,942
Membership dues	1,104,710
Registration fees	2,190,065
Net investment income	1,709,106
Change in value of charitable remainder trust	45,467
Other	388,215
Total Revenues	\$ 9,193,505

Expenses

Program services	\$
Scholarship	417,664
Civic	177,159
Medals & awards	79,332
Educational programs	3,245,704
Management & general	988,000
Fundraising	141,777
Total Expenses	\$ 5,049,636

Increase in net assets **\$ 4,143,869**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

Cash	\$ 198,498
Contributions receivable	1,460,955
Prepaid expenses & deposits	1,224,669
Property & equipment	496,723
Interest in charitable remainder trust	823,556
Investments	40,244,128
Total assets	\$44,448,529

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 227,931
Deferred rent	431,174
Deferred revenue	1,048,410
Liability under charitable remainder trust	152,827

Net assets

Without donor restrictions	4,191,515
With donor restrictions	38,396,672
Total Liabilities & net assets	\$44,448,529



GCA Net Assets & Liabilities

- Assets with Donor restrictions (86%)
- Liabilities (4%)
- Assets without donor restrictions (10%)

* Please note that the audit for the 2020 financials for fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 was not yet complete at press time.



Words of Gratitude

Credit for the photos used throughout this Annual Report goes to the talented club members of the GCA.

We are so grateful for their creative vision and inspired images.



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

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*The annual report is a publication of
the GCA's Communications Committee, Chairman Marilyn Donahue, Little Garden Club of Rye
Should you note an error, please contact communications@gcamerica.org*